

NSC BRIEFING

17 August 1959

CARIBBEAN AREA

- I. Castro regime now as strong as ever and more defiant with defeat of 8-9 August counterrevolutionary plot.
  - A. Government obviously making most of situation to intimidate opposition and influence Santiago conference.
    1. Thousands arrested, including many Batista holdovers in army and large land owners.
- II. Nicaraguan rebel group of about 80 in Costa Rica near border.
  - A. Group includes some Cubans, one of whom killed inside Nicaragua during rebel raid across border 3 August.
  - B. Nicaraguan rebels, with help of Costa Rican and Cuban officials, still determined to oust Somoza regime and further efforts can be expected.
- III. Latest Caribbean incident was in Haiti on 13 August--landing by rebel force of at least 30 men.
  - A.  Invaders have apparently dispersed into rugged interior.
  - B.  Haitian "expeditionary force" left from there.
    1. Landing point, extreme west end of southern peninsula, is farthest possibly from Dominican border; will lessen danger of Dominican counterinvasion.

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